



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND  
ARCHIVES COMMISSION

# Why Public/Open Records Requests Complexity Growth is Bigger'n Dallas



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# National News

**POLICE REFORM**  
**New Policies Require NYPD to Release Body Cam Footage, Disciplinary Records**

Maryland lawmakers weigh pulling back curtain on **police disciplinary records**

**Kentucky House votes to weaken open records law and shield lawmakers from inquiries**

BY JOHN CHEVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2021 02:42 PM, UPDATED

**City of Syracuse, police sued for denying access to police misconduct complaints**

**MICHIGAN**  
**Michigan House votes 109-0 to open Legislature, governor to public records requests**  
Beth LeBlanc The Detroit News  
Published 1:48 p.m. ET Mar. 18, 2021 | Updated 3:21 p.m. ET Mar. 18, 2021

**Oakland Sued Over Records on Secret Police Union Meetings**

**New bill in N.C. legislature could allow further access to public records, more transparency**  
By Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com Apr 14, 2021

**Governments Delay Access to Public Records During Pandemic**

**MICHIGAN**  
**Michigan State Police confirm use of text messaging app Signal; deny FOIA violations**  
Paul Egan Detroit Free Press  
Published 3:37 p.m. ET Feb. 4, 2021 | Updated 5:20 p.m. ET Feb. 4, 2021

**LEGISLATURE**

**New Mexico may discipline, fine workers who release records**

**County sued over refusal to provide records on virus outbreaks at businesses**

Kathleen Wilson Ventura County Star  
Published 10:00 a.m. PT Apr. 24, 2021



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## Rep. Joe Moody announces formation of criminal justice reform caucus, more efforts on police transparency

In Texas

**THE COVID-19  
DISASTER HAS  
MADE A MESS  
OF TEXAS' OPEN  
GOVERNMENT  
RULES**

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2021

### Legislators running out of time to pass bills curbing law enforcement agencies from hiring bad officers

Texas law enforcement agencies have long dealt with troublesome officers who move from one department to another. Transparency bills aim to make their disciplinary records more easily accessible to such agencies.

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN

MAY 21, 2021 3 PM CENTRAL

LEGAL

### DOJ opens civil rights probe into Texas youth correctional facilities

### Amarillo, Texas, Approves Purchase of Police Body Cams

Gov. Abbott signs into law two new Texas government transparency measures – led by Sen. Zaffirini, Rep. Canales, respectively – which addressed public records problems that arose as a result of COVID-19, reports Omar Ochoa

IDEA sues Texas attorney general to keep hotel purchase records secret

## *United States v. Texas (2021)*



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# Complexity Drivers

## Legislation Changes

- SB 8 - Heartbeat Act
- SB 111 - LE Disclosure
- SB 930 - Health Disclosure
- SB 1225 - Suspending FOIA During Catastrophes

## Record Types

- Email
- Bodycam Video
- Video Meetings
- Court Records

## New World

- Pandemic
- Remote Work
- Police Reform
- Weather Events



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# PIPR SURVEY

Peers in Public Records

Annual survey of public records Managers

# PIPR INDEX

Peers in Public Records

Quantified measure of growing Complexity



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Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
Higher demand on staff time**	1		1,826	194
Increasing complexity of requests*	2		1,811	187
Increasing number of requests	3		1,710	182
Meeting legal requirements for time deadlines	4		1,604	179
Video/audio records processing	5		1,324	174
Mitigating the potential for litigation	6		1,290	162
Legislation affecting public records requests	7		1,281	165
Data security***	8		1,258	160
Social media activity adding to complexity	9		858	145
Text messages adding to complexity	10		409	68
Securing ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act)	11		370	122
Increasing costs	12		297	58

Lowest Rank      Highest Rank

*\*Based on 230+ Public Records Managers 2022 Priorities – Participate here: [GovQA.com/PiPRSurvey](https://GovQA.com/PiPRSurvey)*



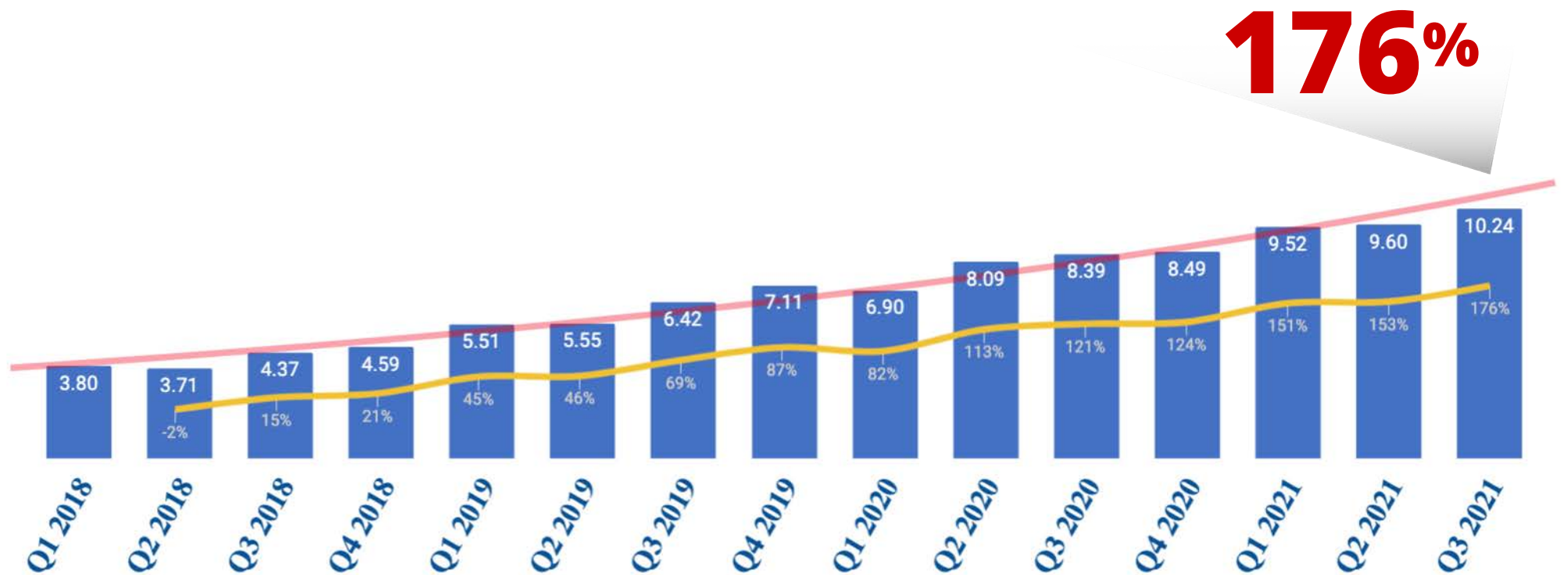
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*\*Based on metrics pulled from 230+ Customers using GovQA to Process Requests GovQA.com/PiPRIndex*



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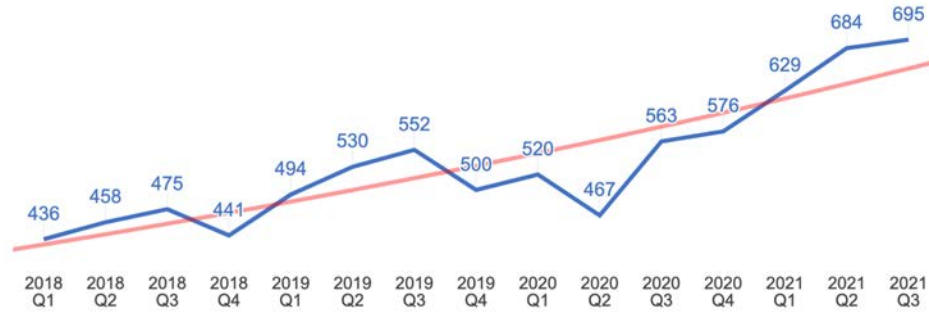


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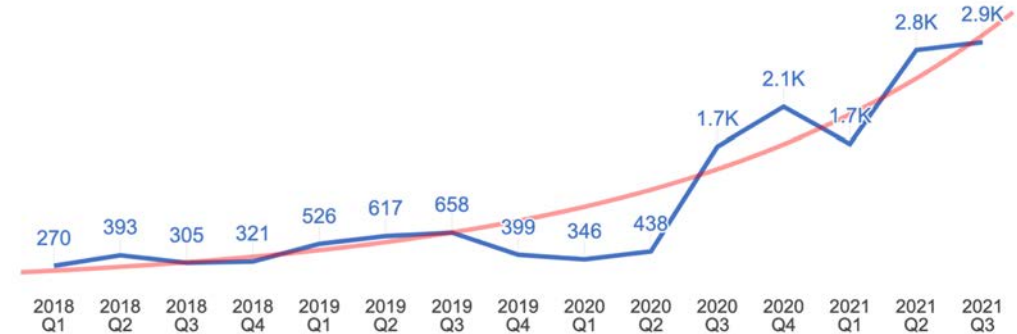
### Request Volume - Average Per Quarter

Request Volume may be the most critical quantifier of complexity as it relates to scale.



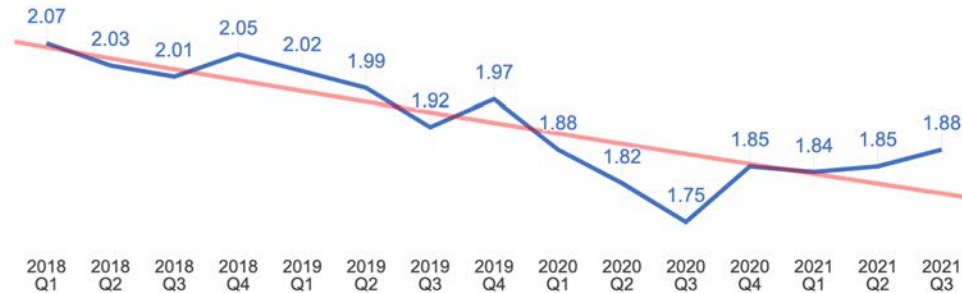
### Total Time in Hours - Average Per Quarter

Measures the scale of complexity as the number of hours spent processing requests.



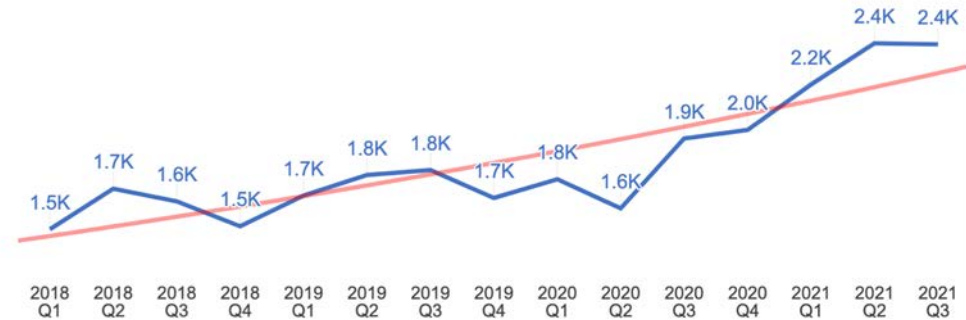
### User Interactions - Average Per Quarter

Measures connectivity-induced complexity as the average number of staff involved in a request.

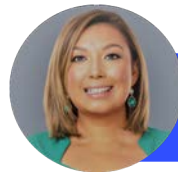


### Clarification Emails - Average Per Quarter

Measures complexity as connectivity by counting the number of clarification emails between requesters and managers.



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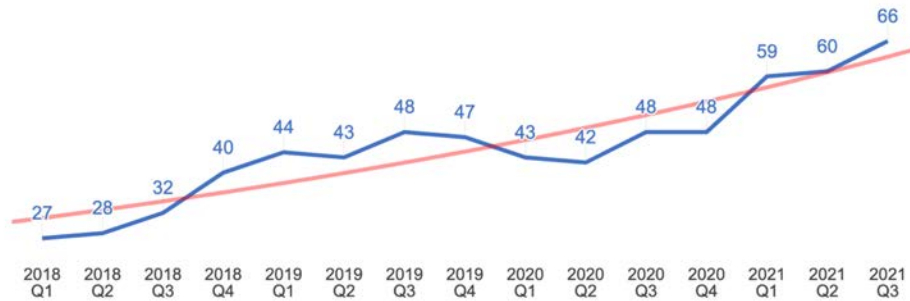
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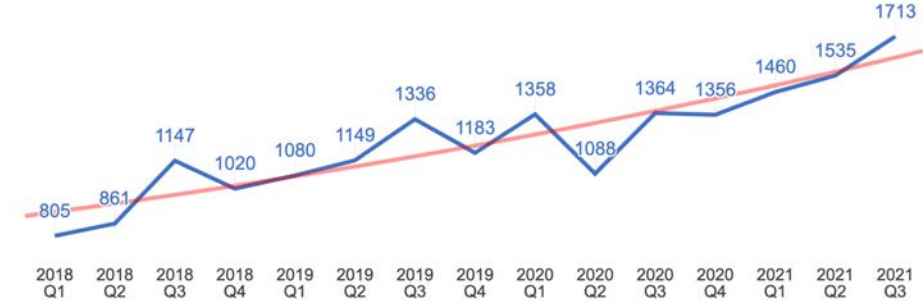
Video Files in Responses - Average Per Quarter

Measures both the complexity scale and diversity as the count of all video files inside the GovQA system



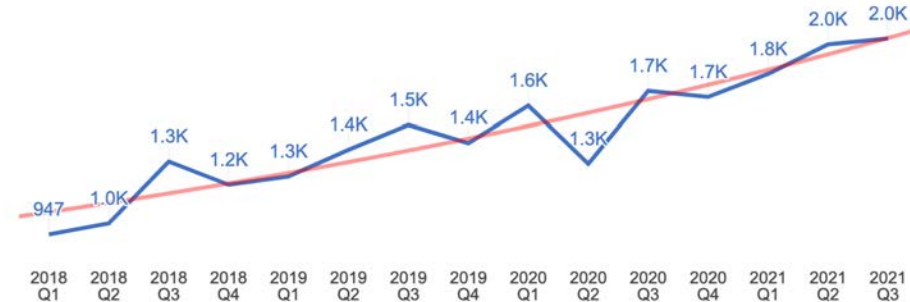
Quantity of Response Documents - Average Per Quarter

Measures the scale of complexity as the total count of individual documents sent to requesters, averaged by volume.



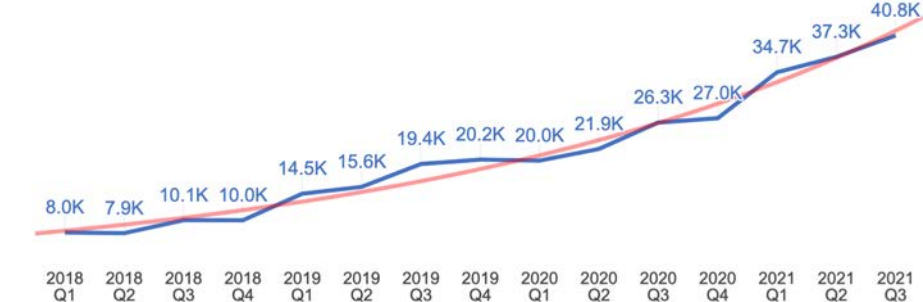
OCR File Count - Average Per Quarter

Measures complexity scale and diversity as the count of all OCR scanned documents and PDFs processed by the GovQA OCR robot.

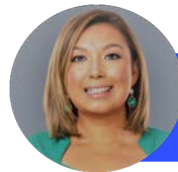


File Size of Response Documents - Average Per Quarter

Measures the scale of complexity as the total size, in Megabytes, of all documents sent to requesters.



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